



# FIRST NEWS

*A monthly publication for the members and friends of First Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**DECEMBER 2022**

## December 2022 Time with Tom

Waiting, waiting, waiting and more waiting. We, like the first disciples, ask the same unanswered question of “when will the Lord come back?” When will all this happen or when will we see the Lord coming on the cloud, when will the final trumpet blow? We ask the same good questions and get the same lame response from whomever we ask, nobody knows. The disciple do not know; the prophets do not know; surely the pastors do not know, not even the son of man knows. Only the father knows when the return will be. So what do we do with this information? Can we use this information to sleep better at night? Scripture says keep awake so I guess we will not sleep better. Is it really so important to know when the king comes for us? If we are busy doing what we are supposed to be doing while we wait, it will not be an issue or important for us to know. However, we want to know because we are excited to see the Lord coming. We want to know, just as kids in a car on a long trip, we ask, “are we there yet”. We ask Jesus, are we there yet every time we ask, “when will this happen.” When my girls were young and riding home from North Dakota, they asked that question and I would tell them, if they slowly count to sixty, five hundred times we would be close to home. Boredom would overtake them after about the fourth or fifth time counting to sixty. They would forget about it until they asked me again and I would ask how far they have counted. This happened repeatedly along the trip until we arrive at grandma’s house. Jesus is continually telling us to love our neighbor while we wait and we start out with good intentions but after a while, out of sheer boredom, we stop and eventually we ask again the question, when will this happen.

It is our job in Advent to wait; we lament, and wait and lament and wait. As we wait, we will tell the story, wait for the Lord and tell the story again. The story of a child born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit, suffered, died and arose from the tomb to save us from our sin. He will come again to take us to the place the father has prepared for us. We will love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and we will love our neighbor as ourselves. This advent and Christmas season, our hope is in the coming Lord who born of a virgin will save us from the sin of broken relationship. The broken relationship with God that has caused division in the world so God has come to repair that relationship himself in the Christ child. We will ask the question “when will this happen”. Will Jesus say count to sixty a million times and we will be close, or he will say, stay awake and be prepared because nobody knows, it may be tonight. Jesus is Lord and God only knows the time of the final trumpet. Amen {Lamentations 5:21} Restore us unto thee O-Lord that we may be restored. *“Live in peace and the God of love and peace will be with you” 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 13:11b* Pastor Tom Evenson

**Our mission:** First Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to **welcome** people to faith in Jesus Christ; **equip** persons with a faith that works in real life; and **send** us in service into the world in

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
 Mon. - Thur. 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
 Fri. 8 AM - 12 PM  
 320-693-2487  
 Email: [firstoffice@hutchtel.net](mailto:firstoffice@hutchtel.net)  
**WEBSITE:**  
[www.firstlitchfield.org](http://www.firstlitchfield.org)

# Council Highlights

**“GOD’S WORK.  
OUR HANDS.”**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Council Minutes  
Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Our Mission: FLC exists to welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ, equip persons with a faith that works in real life, and send us in service into the world in Jesus’ name.

Council Membership:

2023: Betty Allen, Karla Kadelbach, Amy Nelson, Abby Hemmingway

2024: Dennis Gartner, Joe Berube, Gordon Burdick, Chuck Fenton

2025: Meredith Elj, Andy Miller, Mike Langmo, Corey Cervin

\*All members present with the exception of Abby Hemmingway

\*Additions to the agenda:

~None

\*Devotions: Meredith Elj

\*Secretary report was approved

\*Treasurer report was approved

\*\*\*Pastor Tom reported:

~A discussion took place with the Endowment team regarding the overage of MST funds. The Endowment team made suggestions as to the tracking and disbursement of these funds. Pastor Tom will discuss options with the MST leadership team and a decision will be made.

~The meeting of the Crow River Conference Pastors was hosted at First Lutheran this month. A meal was served by the Social Ministries team. The conference assembly will be held at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel at 2:00 PM on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

~Barb Alsleben has offered to moderate the newly formed Grief Support group. The group will announce the meeting schedule as soon as possible.

~The process of calling an Associate Pastor continues to evolve. Pastor Tom has been informed that there are typically not a lot of Pastors that seek to research other call opportunities during this time of year.

~Reminder of the Thanksgiving Eve service that has been scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM at Beckville. Beckville members will bring desserts, Zion will supply the message and Carol Dragt will organize the Co-op band for the choir.

\*\*\*Team Reports:

\*Evangelism / Social Ministries:

~The celebration for Sarah Jones’ Ordination went very well. Thank you to all of those who helped make this a great event!

~The Tis the Season event is scheduled for Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

\*Christian Education/Youth Team

~The team is working on planning and scheduling the Vacation Bible School with the possible help of Green Lake Bible Camp.

~The event to kick off of Advent is scheduled for Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:45

~The Youth retreat has changed due to an issue with securing hotel rooms for the overnight stay. The students will still be attending the daily events but will not get to experience the overnight stay.

\*Church Property:

~The new Audio-Video booth is operational. The two desks in the choir loft that were previously used for the audio-video equipment were removed.

~The parking lot will be seal coated and striping will be completed in the spring of 2023. There was some discussion as to the direction of the striping and parking angles to accommodate a better flow when entering and exiting the parking lot. The goal is still to re-surface or re-place the blacktop within 2 to 5 years. This will be an ongoing discussion.

**First Evangelical Lutheran  
Church Council  
2022**

**PRESIDENT:**

Corey Cervin

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Karla Kadelbach

**SECRETARY:**

Dennis Gartner

**TREASURER:**

Andy Miller

**TEAM**

**REPRESENTATIVES:**

**Christian Education/  
Youth & Family:**

Joe Berube

Abby Hemmingway

Amy Nelson

**Stewardship & Finance:**

Betty Allen

Karla Kadelbach

Andy Miller

Mike Langmo

**Social Ministry/  
Evangelism:**

Betty Allen

Joe Berube

Meredith Elj

Abby Hemmingway

Amy Nelson

**Endowment/Memorial:**

Corey Cervin

Chuck Fenton

**Property:**

Dennis Gartner

Chuck Fenton

Gordon Burdick

**Worship & Music:**

Gordon Burdick

Meredith Elj

Mike Langmo

**Personnel:**

Corey Cervin

~The team is researching purchasing approximately 12 new 8' tables for use in Chilstrom Hall.  
~2023 Budget was discussed but not completed. More information was requested from the Church office. A brief follow-up meeting of the property team to discuss the budget was scheduled for Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> after the first service.

~The team suggested an increase in the lawn mowing fee which has evolved into watering a portion of the lawn with hoses and sprinklers. A future lawn irrigation system was also discussed.

~Jim Alsleben will continue to add items to our tracking sheet as needed.

## \*Endowment:

~There are still Endowment funds available for use in 2022. Options discussed were donations to the Food Shelf, Meeker Area Ministries, and LAMP. The team will review again at the December meeting.

~There was a generous donation made that the Endowment team has been asked to oversee. The endowment team discussed some options and will ask the council to have these funds be in a separate undesignated fund that could be easily accessed for future donations.

~MST funds were also discussed. The Endowment team will help to track the funds in conjunction with the newly formed MST team.

## \*Worship & Music:

(Worship & Music Old Business)

~Tour of churches will be December 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Nicole (Elj) Geffre will chair this event. Music will be played on a CD for the guests.

~"Tis the Season" will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm (No Jubellation)

~150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service will be held August 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:45. There will be a catered meal after the service.

~The A-V booth equipment is being moved to the new booth.

(Worship & Music New Business)

~An estimated cost to clean and service the hand bells was discussed. The team will add \$4,000 to their budget to cover this expense for 2023. It is recommended that this service be completed every two years.

~Ushers will begin passing the offering plates during the services.

## \*MST Team Discussion:

~The MST team will be meeting the week of November 21<sup>st</sup>.

## \*Old Business:

~Preliminary team budgets were discussed. A few questions were clarified. Budgets will again be discussed at the December meeting.

## \*New Business:

~Initial conversations began regarding the planning of the Annual meeting.

~Final team reports and budgets are requested to be submitted as soon as possible.

~Annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup>.

~Nominating committee has been contacted and they are proceeding with their search of council candidates.

~A generous donation entitled "Evenson/Johnson" was discussed. The Endowment team will help to monitor the disbursement of these funds. A motion was made and passed to set up a separate un-designated fund that can be easily accessed to distribute funds as approved requests are received.

~The best use of unused funds from previous MST trips was briefly discussed. The MST team will meet to discuss and report back at the next council meeting.

## \*Prayer requests were taken

\*Closing prayer was heard and the meeting was adjourned

## \*\*\*Dates to remember:

\*Coop services continue virtually on Sunday's at 8:30

\*In person services Sunday's at 8:30 and 10:45

\*Wednesday evening services, Supper 6:00, Worship 6:30, Bible Study 7:00

\*MST Cookie Walk Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:00 to Noon

# Finance

## General Fund:

Total Income for the month of October 2022: \$63,613  
Expenses for the month of October 2022: \$33,971

## Year to Date:

Income as of October 2022: \$326,174  
Expenses as of October 2022: \$306,532

Give Generously:

Everything we have belongs to God. Let God influence your spending and giving. Many people and organizations rely on donations this time of year. Where do you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to give? Remember that we are all steward's of what God has given us.



In everything I did, I showed you that be this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the word of the Lord Jesus himself said "It is more blessed to give than to received" Acts 20:35

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16

All those people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of poverty put in all she had to live on. Luke 21:4

Council continued...


- \*Tour of Churches Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 5:00
- \*Executive Team meeting Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30
- \*Team meetings Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00
- \*Lucia Breakfast Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00AM to 9:30AM
- \*Sunday School Christmas program Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:45
- \*Tis the Season Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM
- \*Christmas Musical Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM
- \*Council Meeting Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00
- \*Christmas Eve Services December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00, 6:00 and 10:00
- \*Christmas Day Services December 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 (One service)

Submitted as un-approved minutes by Dennis Gartner

\*NOTICE\*

FLC Annual Meeting will be held on:  
Sunday January 29, 2023 at 10 AM





MEEKER AREA MINISTRIES

An Evening of  
Carols and Cheer

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST**  
7 PM AT LITCHFIELD OPERA HOUSE

*Come and join in singing carols and eating holiday treats as we raise money for the homeless of Meeker County*

Free Will Donations

Joel Green and some High School Choir Members will be leading the singing.



FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN,  
TO US A SON IS GIVEN,  
AND THE GOVERNMENT  
WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS.  
AND HE WILL BE CALLED

WONDERFUL  
*Counselor,*  
MIGHTY  
*God,*  
EVERLASTING  
*Father,*  
PRINCE OF  
*Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6, NIV



**CHRISTMAS  
TOUR OF  
CHURCHES**

**Sunday, December 4, 2022**  
**1:00 to 5:00 PM**

Area churches will open their doors to share their rich history and traditions and express the beauty of Christmas with the community. Drop by participating churches and enjoy festive decorations, music, homemade refreshments, and more. Bring the family and discover "the reason for the season."

- Blessings Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Litchfield Christian Church
- Zion Lutheran Church
- First Lutheran Church
- Harvest Community Church
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Learn more at: [workingasonelitchmn.com](http://workingasonelitchmn.com)  
E-mail: [robbieb\\_workasonelitchmn@outlook.com](mailto:robbieb_workasonelitchmn@outlook.com)

Come Celebrate  
The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Saint Lucia Breakfast  
First Lutheran Church  
Litchfield, MN



December 10, 2022  
6:00 – 9:30 A.M.

Traditional Swedish Breakfast with the option of scrambled eggs

Suggested Donations

Adults \$10.00

Children 6-10 years \$5.00/ Under 6 years free

Tickets available at the First Lutheran  
Church Office  
or at the door

**March 25- April 2, 2023**

*Costa Rica Mission Trip 2023:  
Roblealto*

### Important Dates:

- Begin individual fundraising immediately (monetary and prayers!)
- Apply for or locate passport – a copy needs to accompany the deposit (all items due December 2022). If you do not have a passport, please let me know you are in the process of applying.
- December 2022 – **passport copy, \$500 deposit. Please submit all of the items together to the FLC church office**
- January 2023: \$500 due to the FLC church office
- February 2023: \$500 due to the FLC church office
- March 2023: **balance due to FLC church office**
- **Please make note of the above dates on your calendar to turn in funds. These dates are very important in the planning and payment schedules for airline tickets and sending funds to Roblealto.**

*When dropping off funds or documents at church, put in an envelope and enclose a note indicate: MST Costa Rica 2023. Do not put funds in the offering plate. If you are mailing the funds, please allow enough time to arrive by the requested date and send to:*

First Lutheran Church  
ATTN: Costa Rica Mission Trip  
703 S. Sibley Avenue  
Litchfield, MN 55355

### Approximate Cost: \$2250

Cost includes: airfare, travel insurance, baggage fees, food/lodging at Roblealto, lodging/transfers between airport and Roblealto, Roblealto donation & farewell party, and 1-2 day free-time excursion.

Not included in cost: Incidental meals when not at Roblealto, personal expenses (i.e souvenirs), and minimal tipping are not included in the cost of the trip and are the responsibility of individual team members.

### Team Meetings and Fundraisers:

Attendance at team meetings is very important to team building and to receive updates on the projects. Please make attendance a priority at all team meetings.

January 2023: trip planning & information  
(Sunday Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 12:00 FLC Chilstrom Hall)

March 2023: packing party  
(Friday March 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00 FLC Chilstrom Hall)

Did I mention finding more information and pictures on facebook (Roblealto Association) and the web ([www.roblealto.org](http://www.roblealto.org)) and about LaPaz ([www.waterfallgardens.com](http://www.waterfallgardens.com)) and Hotel Hacienda Guachipelin | Adventure Tours Costa Rica ([guachipelin.com](http://guachipelin.com))?!

Additional Questions/Concerns:  
Kris Cervin 612-597-7004  
[lusi0003@umn.edu](mailto:lusi0003@umn.edu)





*Tis the Season*

Please join us for an evening of music,  
dessert and fellowship at FLC

Chilstrom Hall

Sunday, December 11, 2022

6:30 p.m. Table Viewing

7:00 p.m. Program

This is a free event but seating is limited.

Call the church office at 320-693-2487

to reserve your spot.

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First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Litchfield invites you to join us at our

MST Cookie Walk | Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

8 AM - Noon | Chilstrom Hall

Walk from table to table gathering delicious holiday  
cookies in any combination you like.

Cost only \$6.00 per dozen.

Bring your own container  
or use one of ours!

All proceeds raised will support MST 2024 Mission Trip







To my First family,

Thank you. As I continue to receive and open congratulatory cards and am working on getting thank you cards written and sent out, I reflect upon our time together in ministry. Your support and prayers throughout the years have meant so much to me, and I would not be the leader that I am today without them. The journey that started with you all in 2011 is held close to my heart; ski trips, youth gatherings, Sunday school, confirmation, Christian education board, stole making, filling backpacks, assisting in worship, assisting with Kingdom Company, vacation bible school, Sunday night youth group, and the list goes on. All of these spaces were provided with your love and guidance; I treasure all of the learning, laughing, and lessons. It has been an honor to have been invited to walk with so many of you in your faith journey, questioning, challenging, learning, and growing. We did this together as brothers and sisters in Christ.



This is the first picture I took, on my first day of Sunday School as Christian Education Director in 2015.



Having you all be with me as I graduated from Ridgewater to exploring and entering seminary, to graduation, and ordination is incredible. Thank you.

Love God. Love your neighbor. God is love.

In loving your neighbor, you have been loving and glorifying God, and I thank you for loving me all along the way. Thank God for your Spirit running wild. Know that I will be thinking, praying, and looking forward to seeing you all again.

Peace & Blessings,  
*Pastor Sarah C.E. Jones*



# MST-USA

MST-USA is excited to announce that our 2023 mission trip will take us to Nashville, TN. This July, 15 youth and 3 adult chaperones will partner with YouthWorks and the Nashville community to meet ongoing needs in their area. This may include serving at a food pantry, clothing distribution center, soup kitchen or other local initiatives.

We'd like to thank all of you that have already supported our many fundraisers. Each MST-USA youth is responsible for covering the costs of their trip. So we appreciate all of your support - both financial and through prayer. And we'll be introducing our group to you in upcoming newsletters...here are a few of them!



Claire Gabrielson, 9th grade (Daughter of Todd and Jess Gabrielson) "I am going on the trip this year because it sounds like a lot of fun and I want to help people out and donate my time to those in need."



Alexis Engelke, 8th grade (Daughter of Laure Engelke) "I am excited to go to Nashville because this is my first time leaving my community to help others. I'm excited to help people in a big city and helping serve God."



Shelby Dengerud, 11th grade (Daughter of Steve and Julie Dengerud) "I am going on this mission trip because I had so much fun 2 summers ago when we went to West Virginia. I am looking forward to learning more about God and building new relationships!"



## COMING SOON...MST USA

2023 will be selling Handcrafted Greeting Cards in January, Papa Murphy's Pizzas in February and ButterBraids in March.

THANK YOU for your continued support of MST USA 2023!!



# MEMORIALS, GIFTS & THANKS

Gifts were given to the General fund in memory of Jean and Reuben Hoyer by Lisa Hoyer.

A gift was given to the Quilting fund in memory of Beverly Nelson by Elaine Lenhard.

A gift was given to the General in memory of Ken Fenner, Stacy Justison's father, by Mike and Kris Nelson.

A gift was given to the General in memory of Mary Jane Klosner by Everett and Kathy Hantge.

Gifts were given to WELCA, MST USA and Worship funds in memory of Lillie Oeltjenbruns by her family.

## Special Thanks

**A Big Thank You!** To all who participated in the Operation Christmas Child boxes this year.

It was a huge success thanks to all of the generous gifts we received. We were able to fill 114 shoeboxes and raised \$1925 in funds. The people at the drop off location in Hutchinson were very excited and surprised when Mark and Julie Bredeson showed up with their car full of shoeboxes. The person that met them was so happy and said we were an answer to their prayers, the goal was to ship 2,000 boxes from this location and with FLC's donation they reached their goal and then some.



**TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.**

*Matthew 1:22, ESV*



## Christmas Memorials 2022

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory and/or in honor of:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Parking Lot Refurbishment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

God's Work, Our Hands \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Blessing Box \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your memorial and this form to the church office no later than:  
Friday, December 16, 2022. Thank you!**

## Congratulations to the 2022 Confirmation Class Affirmation of Baptism Sunday, October 30, 2022



Front row: Kiera Olson, Kira Kuechle, Kamryn McWherter, Leah Wilson  
Back row: Pastor Tom Evenson, Ethan Lease, Heidi Thoma



**Sunday School Christmas  
Program**  
**“A Night Like No Other”**  
December 11, 2022  
10:45 a.m.



Please come see all of the  
Children's Christmas Books  
we have in the Library

# December 2022 Calendar

December 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>First Evangelical Lutheran Church</b> 703 South Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 320-693-2487				<b>1</b> 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFDRadio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel 7:00 p.m. Meeker Area Min. An Evening of Carols and Cheer, Litchfield Area Oprera House	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship Rehearsal  8:00 a.m. - <b>12:00 Noon</b> MST Cookie Walk
<b>4 2nd Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 a.m ELCA COOP/Radio 8:30 a.m Trad. Worship w/Comm 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Non-Trad. Worship w/comm & Baptism for Marshall Herzog 1:00-5:00 p.m. Tour of Churches	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:00 a.m. BREW - Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW - FB Live 8:30 a.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. Worship at Meeker Manor 5:30 a.m. Worship Team Mtg. 6:30 p.m. NA - Chapel 6:30 p.m. Exec. Team Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Team Meetings	<b>7</b> 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion in Chapel 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel 7:00 p.m. Sr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFDRadio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 - 9:30 a.m. Lucia Breakfast  9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship Rehearsal
<b>11 3rd Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 a.m ELCA COOP/Radio 8:30 a.m Trad. Worship w/Comm 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Non-Trad. Worship w/comm & Sunday School Christmas Program 6:30 p.m. Tis the Season - Table Viewing Program 7:00 p.m. Program	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00 a.m. BREW - Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW - FB Live 6:30 p.m. NA - Chapel	<b>14</b> 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion in Chapel 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel 7:00 p.m. Sr. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle, Norma Hall's home	<b>15</b> 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFDRadio 1:30 p.m. WELCA Meeting 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	<b>16</b> 6:00 p.m. Piano Recital, Sanctuary	<b>17</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship Rehearsal  5:00 p.m. Movie Night Holy Word Theater
<b>18 4th Sunday in Advent</b> One Service Only 8:30 a.m ELCA COOP/Radio 8:30 a.m Christmas Musical Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee No Sunday School	<b>19</b> 9:30 a.m. Rachel Circle	<b>20</b> 7:00 a.m. BREW - Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW - FB Live 9:00 a.m. Martha Circle 5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service, Beckville Church 6:30 p.m. NA - Chapel 7:00 p.m. Church Council	<b>21</b> 4:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion in Chapel 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel	<b>22</b> 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFDRadio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve Worship</b> *Candlelight Worship Services with Communion: 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.
<b>25 Christmas Day</b> One Service Only 8:30 a.m ELCA COOP/Radio 8:30 a.m Worship w/Comm 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee No Sunday School	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> 7:00 a.m. BREW - Chilstrom 8:00 a.m. BREW - FB Live 8:30 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. NA - Chapel	<b>28</b> No Staff Mtg. No Confirmation No Worship Service, Chapel No Bible Study, Chapel	<b>29</b> 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" on KLFDRadio 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Smart Recovery Mtg. Chapel	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship Rehearsal

# Serving Group & Birthdays

DECEMBER 2022 SERVING GROUP	
<b>Chair:</b>	Chad & Deb Zeppelin
<b>Mattie Baumgartner</b>	Kristi Ziegler
Marilyn Swanson	Abigail Adams
Charlene Tancabel	Iona Albright
Heidi Thoma	Jim & Barb Alsleben
Mike & Gaylene Thomas	Bev Anderson
Valda Thomas	Carl & Brenda Anderson
Tammy Thompson	Scott & Joan Anderson
Jerry & Betty Urdahl	James & Elva Asmus
Gary and Carolyn Vollmer	George & Helen Baldwin
Jill White	Jeff & Lori Ballard
Travis & Breanna Whitcomb	Sylvia Baumgartner

## December Ushers 8:30 a.m.

Bob Gilberts - C  
Jim Cottington  
Jim Sommerfeld  
Jason Stucky

10:45 a.m.  
Chuck Fenton- C

## December



Karen Eberhard  
693-7190



### DECEMBER 1

Adam Steichen

### DECEMBER 2

Mason Rose  
Zionna Schrader

### DECEMBER 3

Alex Matheson  
Carson Rose  
Terek Stucky

### DECEMBER 4

Cecile Hoyer  
Jami Kraushaar  
Tyler Larson  
Ela Provencher

### DECEMBER 5

### DECEMBER 6

Benjamin Driver  
Jason Langmo  
Janet Wagoner

### DECEMBER 7

Brityn Miller  
Daniel Prah

### DECEMBER 8

Chad Beavers

### DECEMBER 9

Kristine Keller

### DECEMBER 10

Jennifer Blomberg  
Ryan Holmgren  
Carly Rose  
Derek Schreiber

### DECEMBER 11

Kyla Mahlow  
Rick Nelson  
Joan Sommerfeld

### DECEMBER 12

Cheryl Linder  
Samantha Oslund  
Chad Zeppelin

### DECEMBER 13

Jerry Biermann  
William Dolan III  
Ryan Nelson

### DECEMBER 14

Irene Schwartz  
Alan Boll  
Freya Kleinschmidt

### DECEMBER 15

Michael Langmo  
Anna Fluck

### DECEMBER 16

Lisa Provencher  
Lucille Blomberg  
Gordon Johnson  
Douglas Lee  
Addison Lokken  
Jerry Urdahl

### DECEMBER 17

Hannah Cox  
Kaisyn Miller  
Raigan Miller  
Michael Oslund  
Pamela Radunz  
Carson Rose

### DECEMBER 18

Kayden DeWolf  
Haydon Grotto  
Sara Prochaska

### DECEMBER 19

Carson Cervin  
Elliot Fluck  
Todd Kuechle

### DECEMBER 20

Eric Steenrod  
Terry Steenrod  
April Anderson

### DECEMBER 21

Doris Curtis  
Liam Kraushaar  
Taylor Lease

### DECEMBER 22

Ruby Radunz  
Carrie Asmus  
Ashley Lease

### DECEMBER 23

Crystal Bailey  
Douglas Fisher  
Brent Hannan  
Alyssa Thompson  
Emma Ziehl-  
Kleinschmidt

### DECEMBER 24

Nathaniel Nelson

### DECEMBER 25

George Baldwin  
Christine Larson  
Julleen Roush

### DECEMBER 26

Anika J. Bredeson  
Sherry Burdick  
Jacqueline Laidlaw  
Alice Harding  
Gary Smith

### DECEMBER 27

Austin Carlson  
Holly Cottington  
Scott Quast

### DECEMBER 28

Glenn Rueckert

### DECEMBER 29

Mark Sparboe  
Kyndra Beavers  
Todd Gabrielson

### DECEMBER 30

Jessica Konietzko  
Jeremy Lewerenz  
Sara Groskreutz

### DECEMBER 31

Matthew Paulson  
Tracy Gabrielson  
Kim Holmes  
Venita McCormick  
Bryanna St. Pierre  
Delos Steinhaus  
Corey Cervin  
Kole Kraushaar  
Stefany Butler  
Rev. Gary Cumings  
Matthew Draeger  
Karly Nelson  
Charles Lindstrom



# Churchwide



## Worship Schedule

### Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022 \*2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. in Advent

8:30 a.m. ELCA COOP Worship on radio  
 8:30 a.m. Worship w/Communion  
 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour  
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:45 a.m. Non-Trad. Worship w/Communion

### Wednesday, December 7, 2022

6:30 p.m. Worship w/comm. in Chapel

### Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022 \*3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. in Advent

8:30 a.m. ELCA COOP Worship on radio  
 8:30 a.m. Worship w/Communion  
 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour  
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:45 a.m. Non-Trad. Worship with Comm.  
 and Sunday School Christmas Program

### Wednesday, December 14, 2022

6:30 p.m. Worship w/comm. in Chapel

### Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022 \*4<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Advent

\*\*\*One Service Only\*\*\*

8:30 a.m. ELCA COOP Worship on radio  
 8:30 a.m. Christmas Musical Worship Service  
 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour  
*No Sunday School*

### Wednesday, December 21, 2022

6:30 p.m. Worship w/comm. in Chapel

### Saturday, December 24, 2022 Christmas Eve.

\*Candlelight Worship Services w/Communion:  
 4:00 p.m.  
 6:00 p.m.  
 10:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 25, 2022 Christmas Day

\*\*\*One Service Only\*\*\*

8:30 a.m. ELCA COOP Worship on radio  
 8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion  
 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour  
*No Sunday School*

### Wednesday, December 28, 2022

*No Worship service, Chapel*



## FUNERALS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Beverly Nelson

Saturday, November 5, 2022

Please keep her family in your prayers.



### Local Cable Public Access TV Schedule:

Sun.	11 a.m. Encore Presentation COOP
Mon.	11 a.m. Encore Presentation COOP
Tue.	11 a.m. Encore Presentation Sun. FLC
Wed.	11 a.m. Encore Presentation Sun. COOP
Thu.	11 a.m. Encore Pres. Sun. Trinity G.C.
Thu.	3 p.m. Encore Presentation Sun. FLC
Fri.	11 a.m. Encore Presentation Sun. Zion

## MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, December 17, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Holy Word Theater, FLC

Movie: TBD....

Please join us for a good movie  
and popcorn.

Please bring your own beverage.



## WELCA MINUTES NOVEMBER 17, 2022

WELCA met on November 17, 2022, in Chilstrom Hall with Betty Allen calling the meeting to order. The Purpose Statement was recited. Devotions were given by Betty.

The secretary's report was approved as printed. Karin Eberhard gave the treasurer's report for October and November. The report was approved and filed for audit.

**Old Business:** Betty Allen gave an update on ordering items for the kitchen. The following items have been delivered: 20 pitchers, 10 coffee carafes, and 108 coffee cups. We are awaiting the silverware shipment. WELCA received a donation of 144 water glasses and we are very thankful for the gift. Three families have donated memorial money to go for all the items that have been purchased. Thank you to those three families. Monday Nov.21<sup>st</sup> we will be unpacking and washing all the dishes.

'Tis the Season is Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be 15 tables set for viewing, followed by entertainment and dessert. Tickets are free, however there are a limited number. Call the church office to reserve a ticket.

**New Business:** Linda Carlson gave an up-date on the Lucia Breakfast which is Saturday, December 10th. She is co-chair with Kim Dolan and Sue Fenton. 45 dozen eggs have been donated by Sparboe. Church members have been called and slots have been filled for workers and monetary donations. The church also received a donation of 6 Swedish Costumes. Kim Dolan is also making 6 vests for Lucia. Thank you for both donations.

Ripley Elementary and Wagner Preschool are in desperate need of jackets, snowpants, boots, hats, and mittens for students in need. Lana Johnson made a motion that we donate \$100 to buy items. An amendment to the motion was made by Jackie Kraushaar that we increase the donation to \$200 to Community Ed to buy what is needed. The amended motion carried. Donations are welcome from anyone, whether it is money or gently used or new items. It was suggested that we designate some of the Harvest money next Spring for this worthy project.

Next meeting is Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Norma Hall and Dianne Thorp will serve. There will be no WELCA meeting in January.

Thank you to Betty Allen and Judy Berglund for serving dessert. The Lord's Prayer was recited and the Table Grace was sung.

Respectively submitted,  
Sue Lemmer, Secretary

**NO WELCA  
MEETING  
IN  
JANUARY 2023**



# 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



YOUR STORY MATTERS

*1 Corinthians 16:14*  
*“Let all that you do be done in love.”*

*Anniversary Hymn*  
*“I Love to Tell The Story”*

First Lutheran’s 150<sup>th</sup> church anniversary celebration will begin Jan 15<sup>th</sup> with a candlelight service @ 4:00 pm. We want to kick off our sesquicentennial jubilee in worship and in prayer. Remembering our past but looking to our future. Pastor Christa Forsythe will be preaching. This candlelight celebration will be followed by a potluck supper.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

### **January 15 @ 4:00 pm**

Candlelight church service  
Pastor Christa Forsythe preaching  
Potluck supper to follow

### **March 19 @ 8:30 am**

Bishop Dee Pederson preaching  
Swedish breakfast @ 9:30

### **May 7 @ 8:30 am**

Pastor Buendorf preaching  
Swedish sweets @ 9:30

### **August 13 @ 1:00 pm**

Minnesota Boys Choir  
Music Concert  
Ice cream to follow

### **August 20**

Laying of cemetery flowers

### **August 27**

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service  
Pastor Tom Evenson preaching  
Formal catered congregational dinner  
Congregational Group Photo

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY:**



\*Our members known to be in the military are:

**Staff Sgt. US Army, Zachary Olimb**, Vicenza, Italy, grandson of Edna and Martin Oldenburg, Vern and Lil Madson;

**Master Sgt. Austin Kleinschmidt**, 934<sup>th</sup> Airwing, Minneapolis, son of Kipp and Lynette Kleinschmidt;

**Staff Sgt. Matthew Wiechmann**, stationed at Fort Drum, NY; son of Virgil and Jamie Wiechmann;

**Eric Kammermeier**, active duty United States Navy, son-in-law of Mike and Beth Boyle;

**Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Rogers**, Beale Air Force Base, CA. Grandson of Janet and Jim Lange.

*Welcome Home! to those of you who now have returned to the States. Thank you all for your service*

\*Please let the office know if titles, locations, and/or addresses have changed for any of the above.

## GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING: SW MN Synod Ministries



Be still, Receive God's Love, Embrace God's Word, Welcome the Day.

**B.R.E.W.**

meets every **Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m.** with Pastor Tom for coffee and fellowship. Join us!!

**Family Fare Receipts:** Please bring in your receipts (place in basket in the Sunday School Entrance or bring to the church office). These receipts are added together and helps our education program earn \$1000 per \$150,000 worth of receipts. Please note we need the entire receipt.

**Thank you** for all the receipts that have been turned in!!

\*receipts for prescriptions purchased are **not** eligible for the program.

Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers,

Meeker Manor: Lois Rusch

Emmaus Place: Mae Brehmer

Bethany Home: Janet Lundin

Litchfield, in own home: Jutta Goodrich, Darlene Miller

Lakeside, Dassel: Martin and Edna Oldenburg



**Christmas at Trinity is Saturday, December 3, 2022 from 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon at Trinity Lutheran Church** in Grove City, MN. **Brunch: \$13.00 (Adults); \$6.00 (10 & Under); Coffee and Roll \$4.00.** Take out available no extra charge. Pre-packaged: Decorative Cookies, Candy, Bake Sale, Lefsa, Ethnic Goodies and Quilts, Crafts, Cards & Napkins & More!!! **Everyone Welcome!**

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Little Red Schoolhouse - Holiday Craft Sale: Saturday, December 3, 2022 from 8:30 am - 2:00 pm**

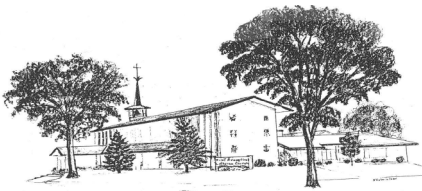
To be held at: Beckville Lutheran Church, 20521 600<sup>th</sup> Ave., Litchfield MN

Quilted and Felted Gifts | Loom and Penny Rugs | Repurposed vintage décor | Poinsettias and wreaths | Fabulous baked goods | Stocking Stuffers | Seasonal & Holiday Décor | Ornaments | Dog sweaters | Laser cutting boards | T-shirts and sweatshirts | Sweater Mittens and more!

For more information contact Judy Walstad, email: [lrsitchfield@gmail.com](mailto:lrsitchfield@gmail.com); call: 952-237-5529 or Facebook

FIRST NEWS is a monthly publication of First Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
703 S. Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355

Please send submissions to: The Church Office by December 15th  
For the NEXT ISSUE: January 2023



# FIRST NEWS

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## December

### Ministry Staff:

Tom Evenson, Pastor  
firstsr@hutchtel.net

Heidi Thoma, Education Coordinator  
heidithoma3@gmail.com

Judy Berglund, Office Manager  
firstoffice@hutchtel.net

Sara Rick, Bookkeeper  
firsttr@hutchtel.net

Carol Heath, Financial Secretary  
firsttr@hutchtel.net

Bea Devereaux, Organist, Senior Choir, and Bell Choir Director

Carol Dragt, Director of Music, Non-Traditional

Kipp Kleinschmidt, Media Director  
firstmedia@hutchtel.net

Scott Nelson, Custodian

Joel Ramthun, Custodian

First Lutheran Church Office: 320-693-2487

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